

From: George Verkler
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/27/01 8:24am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I will start this out by saying that I am an Apple user/supporter. So to this end I am biased as I feel they make the better OS/Equipment. However, when it comes down to the merits of this settlement I feel you are encouraging Microsoft to continue their already legally determined illegal monopolistic practices. In the long term what will happen is;

- Schools so chosen will require upgrades to both equipment and software. They will of course go straight to Microsoft as that is what they have already and will be less expensive than purchasing all new equipment and software.

- Students will have the Microsoft logo in front of them all the time, at a time in their life where they are the most susceptible to influences. When they have an opportunity to purchase their own system they will probably, not necessarily, go with a Windows OS machine.

This settlement pushes the monopoly further. They will gain market share now and make money from it in the future. Not trying to toot Apples horn on this, but this forces Apple OUT of the market in these areas that you are planning on having Microsoft pay their penalty to. As I said, this encourages a more and bigger monopoly.

I feel that if you penalize them, it should be a penalty and not a money making proposition. Make them purchase competing systems. Hands down Apple is overall better. More cost effective to own, easier to maintain, easier to network, more creative tools. But if you think that isn't fair, at least let the school systems decide what they want to put in their schools. And make sure there is no pressure applied either way. Let the schools research to determine what would be in their best interest. Here is a page to help in that thought.

(http://homepage.mac.com/mac_vs_pc/Intro.html)

My whole premise is that if you are judged guilty of a crime you should be punished. I don't think this settlement punishes. It instead pushes the monopoly that you fought to prove, further into our lives.

Thank you
George Verkler